

HANDLING LAMB WETHERS FOR MARKET.

By HENRY LEASING.

(Read before the Ind. Wool Growers' Convention).

The proper time to begin preparing lambs for market is before they are born. Constitution, or the ability to assimilate food and grow and fatten rapidly, comes from the parents. The ewes should be thrifty and well-fed during pregnancy, and the ram not abused by overwork. I am sure that great loss is often sustained by giving the ram too many ewes. When allowed to run with the flock during rutting season, there should be one ram to each twenty-five or thirty ewes.

The lamb from an ill-used ram, that is so weak when it is born that it can not get on its feet for a half-hour, can never have the stamina or constitution of the one from the sexually strong ram, that comes strong and hearty and gets right up and takes care of itself. The docking and trimming should be done when the lamb is about two weeks old and an antiseptic used on the wounds.

IN SALTING LAMBS

I give ashes mixed with the salt, in proportion of one of salt to two parts of ashes. This mixture has a good effect in checking injury from stomach worms, and the lamb is not apt to take an overdose of salt, which will give diarrhoea, and sometimes cause death.

Putting lambs into the cornfield to wean is my favorite way. Then they soon learn to eat corn, and afterwards when put into the feed lot, they lose no time learning to eat it. If at time of putting into feed lot, your flock of lambs is mixed, as to size, age and thriftiness, sort them, putting those of a kind together as nearly as possible, for the small or weak do not have equal chances with the strong. Tag carefully, and should you find any with diarrhoea from stomach worms, give remedy at once. It will not pay to try to fatten an unhealthy animal.

DO NOT FEED AGAINST DISEASE, wind or rain. If a lamb is uncomfortable from hunger, thirst, or being wet, hot or cold, it is not putting on weight as it should. Supplying good air, food and water in right quantities at all times and in proper places to his animals constitutes the feeder's art. Air is not good for a feeder's purpose if it is loaded with ammonia, carbonic acid, sulphuretted hydrogen, or has a velocity of sixty miles per hour at a low temperature.

Food is not good if it has not the proper elements of nutrition, or if in unpalatable or indigestible form. Water is not good for the feeder's use if it contains germs of disease to which his flock is liable, or anything that makes it offensive to taste or smell.

Shelter is required to keep the flock from losing weight in times of storm. The ideal shelter is light, dry and airy, but without draughts. The feed lot with east, north and west sides shedded, and with a tight board fence for wind-break on the south, is good enough. And if the feed and water can be given under cover all the better.

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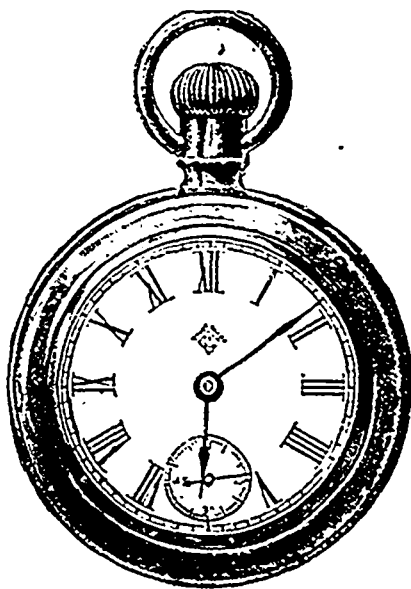
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